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THE NEXT STEP?

President Trump condemned white supremacy following two mass murders over the weekend, but now faces growing pressure over gun-control laws. 2

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Condemning white supremacy, prez faces gun-control pressure

The number of casualties in mass shootings in El Paso and Dayton is at 31.

President Donald Trump on Monday proposed tighter monitoring of the internet, mental health reform and wider use of the death penalty in response to mass shootings over the weekend that killed 31 people in Texas and Ohio.

Republican Trump, who has been criticized by Democrats as stoking racial divisions with his rhetoric, said Americans must "condemn racism, bigotry and white supremacy," a day after Texas officials said racial hatred was a possible motive in the killings of 22 people in the southern border town of El Paso.

A 21-year-old white man has been charged with capital murder in Saturday's shooting spree. Police in El Paso cited a racist, anti-immigrant manifesto posted online shortly before the shooting, which they attributed to the suspect, Patrick Crusius.

Trump did not address accusations that his own anti-immigrant and racially charged comments have contributed to a rise in race tensions, nor did he call for broad gun-control measures.

"These sinister ideologies must be defeated," he said in remarks at the White House. "Hate has no place in America. Hatred warps the mind, ravages the heart and devours the soul."

People pray at a makeshift memorial beside crosses with the names of victims who died in the shooting that left 22 people dead at the Cielo Vista Mall WalMart in El Paso, Texas, on Aug. 5, 2019. GETTY IMAGES

"Mental illness and hatred pulls the trigger, not the gun."

President Donald Trump

Democrats quickly accused Trump of hiding behind talk of mental health reform and the role of social media instead of committing to laws aimed at curbing gun violence in the United States.

On Saturday, several Mexican citizens were among the 22 people killed at a Walmart by a man who drove from his home in Allen, Texas, 660 miles away, to El Paso, authorities said.

Just 13 hours later, another gunman killed nine people in downtown Dayton, Ohio. The suspect, Connor Betts, was killed by police in less than a minute. His motive was not clear.

Mass shootings by lone attackers in recent years have increased concerns about gun violence and the threat posed by racist and white supremacist ideologies.

Trump, who has been accused of not doing enough to tackle domestic extremist groups, said he would direct the Department of Justice to investigate domestic terrorism and would propose legislation to ensure that those who commit hate crimes and mass murders face the death penalty.

He also said the country needs to reform mental health laws to identify disturbed people as well as work with social media companies to detect possible mass shooters.

"We must make sure those judged to pose a grave risk to public safety do not have access to firearms and that if they do, those firearms can be taken through rapid due process," he said.

BACKGROUND CHECKS?

Trump on Monday had called for "strong background checks" on gun buyers, but did not elaborate on the idea and it was not the central part of his White House statement.

"Mental illness and hatred pulls the trigger, not the gun," he said in the address.

That comment drew immediate criticism, with 2020 Democratic presidential candidate Amy Klobuchar accusing Trump of trying to dodge the issue of gun control.

"There's mental illness&hate throughout world, but U.S. stands alone w/high rate of gun violence," she tweeted.

After a gunman killed 58 people at a country music festival in Las Vegas in 2017, Trump proposed a ban on an attachment known as a bump stock that gives a semi-automatic weapon the capacity of a machine gun. The ban went into effect in March.

But when 17 people were killed in a 2018 shooting at a high school in Parkland, Florida, Trump stepped back from sweeping fixes to gun laws that he had considered after the tragedy. Instead, he backed more modest measures following a private meeting with the National Rifle Association, the gun-rights group that is influential in Congress.

Trump also pointed to "gruesome and grisly" video games in his comments on Monday.

"It is too easy today for troubled youth to surround themselves with a culture that celebrates violence," Trump said. "We must stop or substantially reduce this and it has to begin immediately." REUTERS

Dayton gunman once threatened fellow HS students with 'hit list'

REUTERS

The 24-year-old gunman who killed nine people in a rampage in Dayton, Ohio, had a troubled past, including threatening fellow students in high school, authorities said, but police said it was too soon to establish a motive for the slaughter.

The gunman, wielding an assault-style rifle and wearing body armor and a mask, inflicted carnage early on Sunday on a neighborhood known for its nightlife.

Police identified the shooter as Connor Betts, 24, of Bellbrook, Ohio, a Dayton suburb. He was the third young man to take a rifle and go on a public killing spree in the United States within a span of a week, renewing alarm at the national crisis of mass shootings.

The killings in Dayton began at around 1 a.m. on Sunday in the Oregon District and ended rapidly when police who were nearby moved in and shot Betts dead. Those killed included Betts' sister. At least 14 people were wounded by bullets, while others still were injured as they fled. Six of the nine people killed were black.

The gunman shot at least 41 bullets before he was killed, Dayton Police Chief Richard Biehl told reporters. REUTERS

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Flowers and signs are seen at a makeshift memorial after the shooting that left 21 people dead at the Cielo Vista Mall WalMart in El Paso, Texas. GETTY IMAGES

El Paso shooting death toll rises to 22

Patrick Crusius was charged with capital murder for Saturday's mass shooting.

The death toll rose to 22 people on Monday in a mass shooting at a Walmart store in El Paso, increasing with two deaths in a hospital days after a spate of shooting sprees, El Paso Police said on Twitter.

Two weekend gun massacres prompted President Donald Trump to condemn white supremacy.

Texas prosecutors charged a man with capital murder for the massacre in the heavily Hispanic border city that initially had claimed 20 lives.

Two victims died in the hospital on Monday morning, raising the grim total to 22, El Paso Police said.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said Saturday's rampage appeared to be a hate crime and federal prosecutors called it domestic terrorism. Police cited a racist, anti-immigrant manifesto posted online shortly before the shooting, which they attributed to the suspect, Patrick Crusius, as evidence that the bloodshed was racially motivated.

A Texas prosecutor said the state will seek the death penalty against Crusius if he is found guilty.

It was the second of three separate public shooting sprees carried out in the U.S. in the span of a week. The dense cluster of massacres prompted fresh cries of alarm in a country accustomed to reports of young men gunning down strangers.

"In one voice, our nation must condemn racism, bigotry and white supremacy," Trump said from the White House, calling the gunman "wicked" and criticizing the internet and violent video games for fostering violence.

"It is too easy today for troubled youth to surround themselves with a culture that celebrates violence," Trump said, a day after Democratic candidates for next year's presidential election called for stricter gun laws and accused the president of stoking racial tensions.

Gun-control advocates have noted that the internet and video games are popular in many other countries where mass shootings are virtually unknown, in part because it is much harder to get a gun than in the U.S.

> **"It is too easy today for troubled youth to surround themselves with a culture that celebrates violence."**
> President Trump

Trump also proposed making it easier and quicker to stop those deemed as having certain forms of mental illness or being a risk to public safety from having guns.

State prosecutors have charged Crusius, a 21-year-old white man, with capital murder, according to the County of El Paso's state court website. The single murder charge is likely a legal placeholder to keep Crusius in custody until further charges can be filed for each of the dead and the wounded.

His grandparents, with whom Crusius had been living, said they were devastated by the attack.

"He lived with us in our house in Allen, Texas, while he attended Collin College," the statement said, read aloud by a family friend to reporters outside the home on Sunday. "He moved out of our house six weeks ago, and has spent a few nights here while we were out of town." REUTERS

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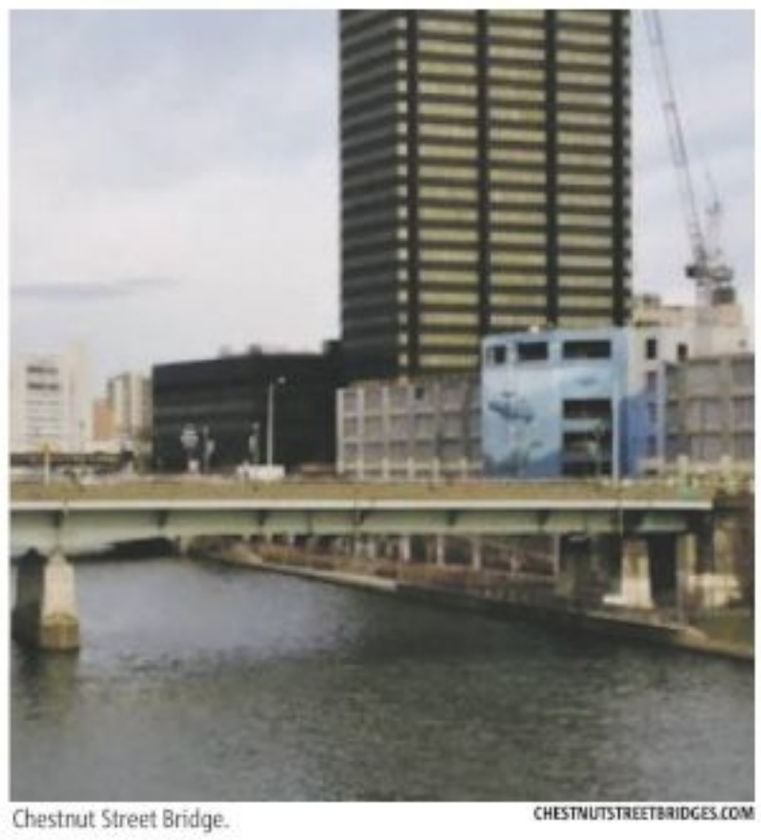

Chestnut Street Bridge. CHESTNUTSTREETBRIDGES.COM

Yearlong Chestnut Street Bridge closure starts

The Chestnut Street Bridge will be closed for repairs until 2020. Here's what to expect.

BECCA GLASSER-BAKER
Rebecca.Glasser@metro.us

The Chestnut Street Bridge, which links University City and Center City, is officially closed for the next year.

On Monday night, the bridge shut down to pedestrians, cyclists and motorists to kick off a $103.6 million reconstruction plan. It is expected to reopen in 2020.

According to a press release from PennDOT, the project will include construction of wider sidewalks, installation of decorative barriers and railings, replacement of millennium lighting on Chestnut Street over the Schuylkill River, construction of a new trellis at the Chestnut Street Trailhead to the Schuylkill River Trail, and the creation of a dedicated bicycle lane on the north side of Chestnut Street between 34th and 22nd streets.

But the improvements come at a cost: a year of detours for motorists, bus passengers, cyclists and pedestrians.

People traveling on foot will be detoured to Market Street or Walnut Street. Cars and cyclists traveling east will be detoured to 36th Street, 38th Street or 33rd Street to east on Market Street, then across the river to 23rd Street. Cars traveling near 30th Street can turn left onto Schuylkill Avenue and use Market Street or John F. Kennedy Boulevard to get to Center City.

Another option for cyclists is to take 34th Street or 38th Street, turn left onto Spruce Street, east on South Street and travel to 22nd Street.

Travelers on SEPTA's Route 21 or Route 42 bus can expect a change in route as well. NBC reported that the Route 21 bus stop at 33rd and Chestnut streets will be closed until construction is finished. Although all stops on the Route 42 bus will remain open, the route itself has changed slightly, so travelers should check with SEPTA for details.

Currently, about 18,664 people travel across the bridge every day. PennDOT has contracted Buckley & Company, Inc. to handle the project.

Jefferson Health and National Jewish Health transforming respiratory care

WRITTEN BY
Amy Smith

Jefferson Health, one of the country's fastest-growing health care systems, brings something truly special to the Philadelphia area and beyond — an exciting partnership with National Jewish Health — the leading respiratory care hospital in the nation. Together, the two have opened a respiratory institute in Philadelphia that provides comprehensive lung care services, next-day appointments and quick access to unmatched respiratory expertise.

The objective is clear: To provide the absolute highest-quality, patient-centered care. This vision is built on an unwavering dedication to discovering new medicines, therapies and treatments to address every respiratory condition; from minor ailments to the most complex illnesses.

"Respiratory disease is a very big deal in the United States and around the world," says Jesse Roman, M.D., CEO of the Jane and Leonard Korman Respiratory Institute – Jefferson Health and National Jewish Health. "Half of all patients with severe COPD, for example, have a high mortality rate within five years, and the numbers are even more startling for other serious respiratory diseases."

Creating a space that was exclusively devoted to respiratory care was the motivation behind Jefferson Health's partnership with National Jewish Health. In other words, it was a natural fit that just made sense. It's also helped position respiratory health as one of Jefferson Health's core pillars.

The Jane and Leonard Korman Respiratory Institute specializes in a number of serious conditions including asthma, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) and more.

"The partnership with National Jewish Health allows us to become very specialized in all these areas," says Dr. Roman. "You're not going to come in and see someone who sees an asthma patient every once in a while. When you come to see us about asthma, you're going to see someone whose whole career and specialty area is asthma."

Expertise reigns supreme. The specialists at the Jane and Leonard Korman Respiratory Institute have access to the latest technology and clinical research, giving them a true leg up over other providers. What's more, the close relationship with National Jewish Health significantly expands patient resources.

Not only is National Jewish Health serving patients in the Philadelphia and Denver areas. Dr. Roman also points out that National Jewish Health has other respiratory institutes with Mount Sinai in New York. As a result, the Jane and Leonard Korman Respiratory Institute is able to serve a larger network of patients than ever before and, in turn, increase access to life-saving treatment.

This is very much in line with Jefferson Health's steadfast commitment to patient care.

"At the end of the day, what we want is not for this institute to just be another place where you come and get care — but a place where you partner with us to help us think about what your needs are," adds Dr. Roman.

To that end, the Jane and Leonard Korman Respiratory Institute hosts three patient support groups every month. Last month, they welcomed a patient who'd recently had a double lung transplant to give a presentation to others in need of support. The patient shared what their experience was like, how they came through it, and what their life has been like since.

"It's such a source of

optimism for people to hear stories like these," says Dr. Roman.

When all is said and done, Jefferson Health is continuing to set the standard for providing unmatched patient care in a warm, compassionate setting. Their partnership with National Jewish Health to create the Jane and Leonard Korman Respiratory Institute is a reflection of that goal. Call 1-800-JEFF-NOW to learn more.

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Florida man who sent explosives to Trump critics sentenced to 20 years

Cesar Sayoc expressed remorse right before being sentenced.

A Florida man who mailed pipes filled with explosives to prominent Democrats and critics of President Donald Trump was sentenced to 20 years in prison on Monday.

Cesar Sayoc, 57, who pleaded guilty in March to using weapons of mass destruction and other crimes, began crying when U.S. District Judge Jed Rakoff in Manhattan read the sentence.

Prosecutors have described Sayoc in court filings as the mastermind of a "two-week terrorist attack" motivated by "hate-filled ideology." They had asked Rakoff to sentence him to life in prison, saying he is dangerous to the public.

"The defendant here set out to terrorize people," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Jane Kim, before Sayoc was sentenced.

Sayoc expressed remorse shortly before the sentencing. "I am so very sorry for what I did," he said.

Sayoc's lawyers have portrayed their client as "kind-hearted and eager to please," but said he suffered from severe learning disabilities, childhood abuse and steroid use that left him isolated and paranoid.

"In this darkness, Mr. Sayoc found light in Donald J. Trump," his lawyers said. At the time he was arrested in October, they said, Sayoc was living in his van and had become preoccupied with conspiracy theories spread on social media about Trump's opponents.

"The combination of his cognitive deficiencies, steroid-induced delusional thinking, political naiveté and his isolation resulted in Mr. Sayoc being unable to critically evaluate these claims," they said.

They had asked Rakoff to sentence their client to just over the legal minimum sentence of 10 years.

Sayoc sent packages containing pipes stuffed with explosives, wires and alarm clocks to 16 intended targets, including former President Barack Obama, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, U.S. Sens. Cory Booker and Kamala Harris, billionaire investor and Democratic donor George Soros, former Central Intelligence Agency Director John Brennan, actor Robert De Niro and CNN.

> **"The combination of his cognitive deficiencies, steroid-induced delusional thinking, political naiveté and his isolation resulted in Mr. Sayoc being unable to critically evaluate these claims."**
>
> Sayoc's lawyers

All of the devices were intercepted and none exploded.

A report by federal investigators concluded the devices Sayoc sent had no mechanism to trigger an explosion and would not have worked as bombs. REUTERS

Cesar Altieri Sayoc appears in a police booking photo. REUTERS

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A trader works on the floor at the NYSE in New York. REUTERS

Wall Street sinks as yuan slide inflames US-China trade dispute

U.S. stocks suffered their worst day of 2019 on Monday.

Wall Street's major indexes posted their biggest percentage drop of the year on Monday, as a fall in the yuan following U.S. President Donald Trump's vow to impose additional tariffs on Chinese goods sparked fears of further escalation of the U.S.-China trade war.

While stocks pared losses in the last hour of trading to finish off their session lows, the benchmark S&P 500 fell about 3 percent to notch its biggest one-day percentage decline since Dec. 4. The decline amounted to a $766 billion paper loss for the index, according to Refinitiv data. The S&P 500 has fallen for six consecutive sessions and is now about 6 percent below its record closing high on July 26.

The yuan weakened past the seven-per-dollar level, its lowest in 11 years, after the People's Bank of China, with the blessing of policymakers, set its daily midpoint at the weakest level in eight months.

On Twitter, Trump called the action a "major violation" and "currency manipulation."

Several investors viewed the move in the yuan as a direct response to Trump's announcement of 10 percent tariffs on an additional $300 billion of Chinese imports.

"It's the escalation of the trade war," said Steven DeSanctis, equity strategist at Jefferies in New York. "The dollar strengthening presents another issue. For companies that do a lot of business outside the U.S., it all adds up."

A weaker yuan and a stronger dollar pose challenges for U.S. companies that do substantial business in China by effectively raising the cost of their goods for Chinese customers.

Adding to the tensions, China's Commerce Ministry said Chinese companies have stopped buying U.S. agricultural products and that China will not rule out imposing import tariffs on U.S. farm products that were bought after Aug. 3.

Shares of S&P 500 technology companies, which are heavily exposed to Chinese markets, dropped 4.1 percent.

Apple Inc. shares slid 5.2 percent as analysts warned that the newly proposed tariffs may hurt demand for the iPhone.

> **"It's the escalation of the trade war."**
> Steven DeSanctis, equity strategist

Stocks could slide further if there are no signs of improvement in U.S.-China trade relations before September, when the recently announced tariffs are to take effect, said Keith Lerner, chief market strategist at SunTrust Advisory Services in Atlanta.

"There's a little bit of a vacuum in the market for the next several weeks," he said. "We're in this corrective phase, and it likely has further to go."

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 767.27 points, or 2.9 percent, to 25,717.74; the S&P 500 lost 87.31 points, or 2.98 percent, to 2,844.74; and the Nasdaq Composite dropped 278.03 points, or 3.47 percent, to 7,726.04.

No. 1 U.S. meat processor Tyson Foods Inc. provided one bright spot. Its shares rose 5.1 percent after the company beat quarterly profit estimates.

REUTERS

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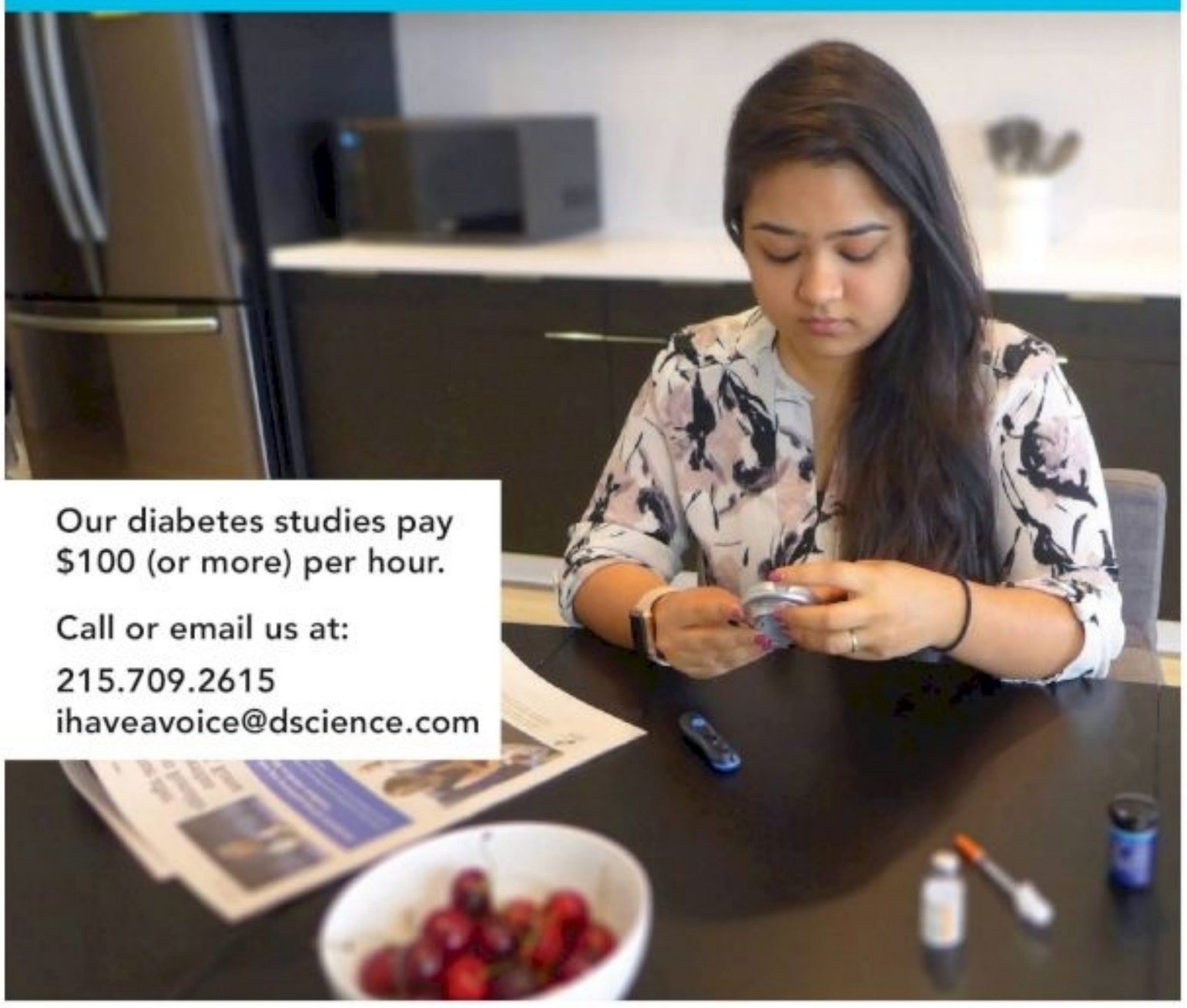

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India scraps special status for Kashmir, Pakistan balks

India on Monday revoked the special status of Kashmir, the Himalayan region that has long been a flashpoint in ties with neighboring Pakistan, moving to grasp its only Muslim-majority region more tightly.

In the most far-reaching political move in one of the world's most militarized regions in nearly seven decades, India said it would scrap a constitutional provision that allows the state of Jammu and Kashmir to make its own laws.

"The entire constitution will be applicable to Jammu and Kashmir," Interior Minister Amit Shah told parliament, as opposition lawmakers voiced loud protests against the repeal.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged India and Pakistan, which also claims Kashmir, to exercise restraint. The U.S. State Department said it was closely following the events and expressed concerns over reports of detentions.

Foreign ministry officials briefed envoys of several countries on the changes to the state's administrative status, saying they were aimed at promoting good governance, social justice and economic development.

The government also lifted a ban on property purchases by non-residents, opening the way for Indians to invest and settle there, just as they can elsewhere in India. The measure is likely to provoke a backlash in the region.

Pakistan said it strongly condemned the decision, which is bound to further strain ties between the nuclear-armed rivals.

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan said the move "was in clear violation of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions" in the region, according to a statement released after a telephone call with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on Monday evening.

> **"As the party to this international dispute, Pakistan will exercise all possible options to counter the illegal steps."**
>
> Pakistan foreign ministry

"As the party to this international dispute, Pakistan will exercise all possible options to counter the illegal steps," its foreign ministry said in a statement.

India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir, where a nearly 30-year armed revolt has killed tens of thousands of people. Hundreds of thousands of Indian troops have been deployed to quell it.

India blames that rebellion on Pakistan, which denies the accusation, saying that it backs the right to self-determination for Kashmir.

Hours earlier the Indian government launched a security crackdown in the region, arresting local leaders, suspending telephone and internet services, and restricting public movement in the main city of Srinagar.

Local TV channels citing Press Trust of India reported that former Kashmiri chief ministers Mehbooba Mufti and Omar Abdullah had been detained at a state guesthouse.

Regional leaders have previously said stripping Kashmir's special status amounts to aggression against its people.

Srinagar's streets were largely deserted as travel curbs kept people indoors, said a Reuters photographer who found a telephone connection in a restaurant near the city's airport.

There was heavy deployment of security forces across the city, but no signs of protest.

"We urge all parties to exercise restraint," U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters, adding that U.N. peacekeepers observing a ceasefire between India and Pakistan in the state of Jammu and Kashmir "has observed and reported an increase in military activity along the line of control."

State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus also called on both sides to "maintain peace and stability along the line of control." REUTERS

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— **Anonymous**, *Metro US reader*

ISTOCK

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Look out for your own interests. Make health and happiness your business instead of leaving them up to someone else. The choices you make will have a big effect on your life.

Taurus An emotional change may seem like a good idea, but let whatever has provoked you settle before you make a final decision.

Gemini The changes you make at home or to essential relationships should be based on truth, facts and what's best for you. Don't listen to someone trying to manipulate you.

Cancer Taking an original approach to the way you earn your living or deal with others will prove valuable when you want support. Be a trendsetter, not a follower.

Leo Channel your energy into something worthwhile. Making a positive change at home or at work will ease stress. Spend time with someone who gets you and understands your needs.

Virgo Don't labor over what others are doing. Stay focused on what you want to achieve and steer clear of anyone trying to manipulate you to do otherwise.

Libra If you do something helpful for a loved one or for a cause you believe in, exciting prospects will develop. Taking a trip, reconnecting with an old friend and exploring new possibilities are favored.

Scorpio Share your feelings only with someone you trust. Don't let a change someone makes ruin your plans or stand in the way of your success. Let experience be your guide.

Sagittarius Dive into something you want to do wholeheartedly, but don't let anyone suck you into something with hype and false information. Joint ventures are not in your best interest.

Capricorn A change is in order. Don't sit back and wait for someone else to make the first move. Consider what you want and make it happen.

Aquarius Keep your emotions out of the equation when dealing with meaningful relationships. If you make a fuss, you'll face the consequences. Use insight, kindness and affection to get your way.

Pisces Be willing to give a little if you want to get something in return. There is money to be made if you invest in something that you have control over. EUGENIA LAST

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LIFESTYLE

Actress Sonya Cassidy on season 2 of 'Lodge 49'

The hit series returns for season 2 next week on AMC.

PAT KING
patrick.king@metro.us

Do we need to escape our everyday reality in order to engage with television? Shows like "Game of Thrones" found success by bringing viewers into a completely new world while use of the word "reality" seems just as farfetched when in relation to what we actually experience. AMC's surprise hit "Lodge 49" chooses to take the opposite approach, showing much more relatable depictions of normal people just trying to do their best in difficult times. The show returns Aug. 12 for its second season.

At the center of the show is the relationship between Sean "Dud" Dudley, played with infectious slacker charm by Wyatt Russell, and his sister Liz, played by Sonya Cassidy. The Dudley siblings have a tight bond but a very uneven dynamic. After the death of their father and the collapse of the family pool-cleaning and supply business, it is up to Liz to keep whatever is left of the family together after Dud is left emotionally adrift.

That's not to say Dud is a lost cause. After a series of coincidences, the spiritually stagnant beach bum finds himself walking the halls of the fraternal order known as The Lynx and ultimately joining as a member of their local station, Lodge 49, in their hometown of Long Beach, California. Becoming a brother of this society gives Dud a new sense of purpose but, unfortunately for Liz, leaves his sister fronting the bills for this new higher calling.

The beauty of the show is how it tackles the quiet struggles that everyday Americans deal with in this modern era. While there are no real battle lines drawn between good and evil for the future of the planet, the show understands why crippling financial debt is a more believable fear than fire-breathing dragons.

According to Cassidy, she had fallen in love with how the show's creator, Jim Gavin, could weave in laughs into his scripts that seemed rooted in real life.

"I had not read anything like that before," says the British actress. "I not only loved the show and how unique and surprising it was, but I realized I had not read something before, in terms of a television script, that in the space of one scene I could go from really laughing to [being] deeply moved. I think the way that Jim so deftly crafts those characters and those scenes is something very special."

Cassidy feels like the story that Gavin hopes to tell is a breath of fresh air for viewers.

"It feels like a very human show," she explains. "Which, in a world of television that I love, there's a lot of blood, a lot of death, a lot of sex, and a lot of violence. We all enjoy that, but what I like a lot about our show is that it doesn't feel like hard work, but at the same time it's utterly engaging and mysterious and magical. That is one of the ways that I would describe the show: It is a lodge for people. They can sit on their sofa and feel like they are a part of this magical, mundane world with us."

And that, for better or worse, is how most of us live our lives. The good times can be fleeting and the threat of an upending of our basic comforts is always lurking around the corner, given how hard it is just to get by, week to week.

"I don't know that there are many people now in that middle section of society that doesn't know what it is to, at some point, be worrying about keeping a roof over their heads, especially if you have children or dependents," says Cassidy. "That's a very real everyday worry for many people which I don't think is covered a lot in television. The more I watch, it either covers very working-class stories or stories about people with lots of money, with problems. There's a kind of thrill and drama to that, but I don't connect with that. I have to say, I get a little bored with it."

Season 2 of "Lodge 49" premieres Monday, Aug. 12, on AMC at 10 p.m.

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David Leitch: 'There was a little bit of "Lethal Weapon"'

Dwayne Johnson and Jason Statham in "Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw." ALL PHOTOS TRISTAR PICTURES

For the "Hobbs & Shaw" director, action is more than physical.

GREGORY WAKEMAN
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At this point, David Leitch has already firmly established himself as one of Hollywood's go-to action directors.

That's what happens when you oversee "John Wick," "Atomic Blonde" and "Deadpool 2," all within the space of just four years. "Hobbs & Shaw" now arrives a little over a year after the release of the Ryan Reynolds-led comic-book sequel, and this time sees the filmmaker pairing up with both Dwayne Johnson and Jason Statham in "The Fast & The Furious" spin-off.

Leitch admits to Metro that joining the beloved franchise and working with the two actors was a particular draw for him. Especially as their characters were already established, as this provided him with the chance to really explore them through their fighting styles and the film's action set pieces.

"I wanted to define them by their action. It is classic Hobbs that he is going to smash everything with a truck. Shaw even says that in the movie to him. While Shaw is more sophisticated and more of the scalpel and more of a smooth operator.

"So if you look at the different fighting elements and fight sequences, even in the opening sequence Hobbs shows no bulls—t,

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he kicks the guy in the balls and uppercuts him. While Shaw maneuvers around, uses a champagne bottle, catches it behind his back. It was a lot of fun to define the characters by the action."

Key to expanding on these characters was the introduction of Vanessa Kirby as Hattie Shaw, the sister to Statham's Deckard whom Johnson's Hobbs quickly develops a crush on. But far from being a damsel in distress, Hattie plays a key role in the plot and is just as impressive a fighter as the two titular characters. Leitch fully credits Kirby with making Hattie so formidable.

"Vanessa put in the time to bring the physicality to the character. We used the action in the movie with her to bring her closer to Jason Statham's character. If you watch her fight scenes, you'll see that she fights a lot like Jason. And that was intentional in the sense that you really wanted to believe that she was Shaw's little sister.

"And, again, Vanessa being the talented actress that she is, she put in the time to make that be a reality and brought her character

Vanessa Kirby.

to life, phy- sically."

In order to prepare for "Hobbs & Shaw," Leitch admits that he watched all of the "Fast" films starring Johnson and Statham, analyzing the fight scenes so that he could "build on where they had come from and their fighting styles," before then bringing his own approach to them and the film.

At the same time, though, there was one classic film that Leitch also often referred to. "I think the classic reference point that rings true is 'Lethal Weapon.' That is the quintessential, classic buddy cop movie, and obviously there have been many, many different installments.

"It has two great characters that are very clearly defined with different styles that are forced to work together. And that is not unlike 'Hobbs & Shaw,' although we had the luxury of being embedded in the 'Fast' universe, where a world has already been created and there's an expectation for these bigger set pieces. So there was a little bit of 'Lethal Weapon' and then the 'Fast' world that we were appealing to."

"Hobbs & Shaw" is in theaters now.

"It has two great characters that are very clearly defined with different styles that are forced to work together. And that is not unlike 'Hobbs & Shaw,' although we had the luxury of being embedded in the 'Fast' universe."

Director David Leitch. GETTY IMAGES

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Riffing through peaks and valleys

Papa Roach bassist Tobin Esperance talks new album and national tour.

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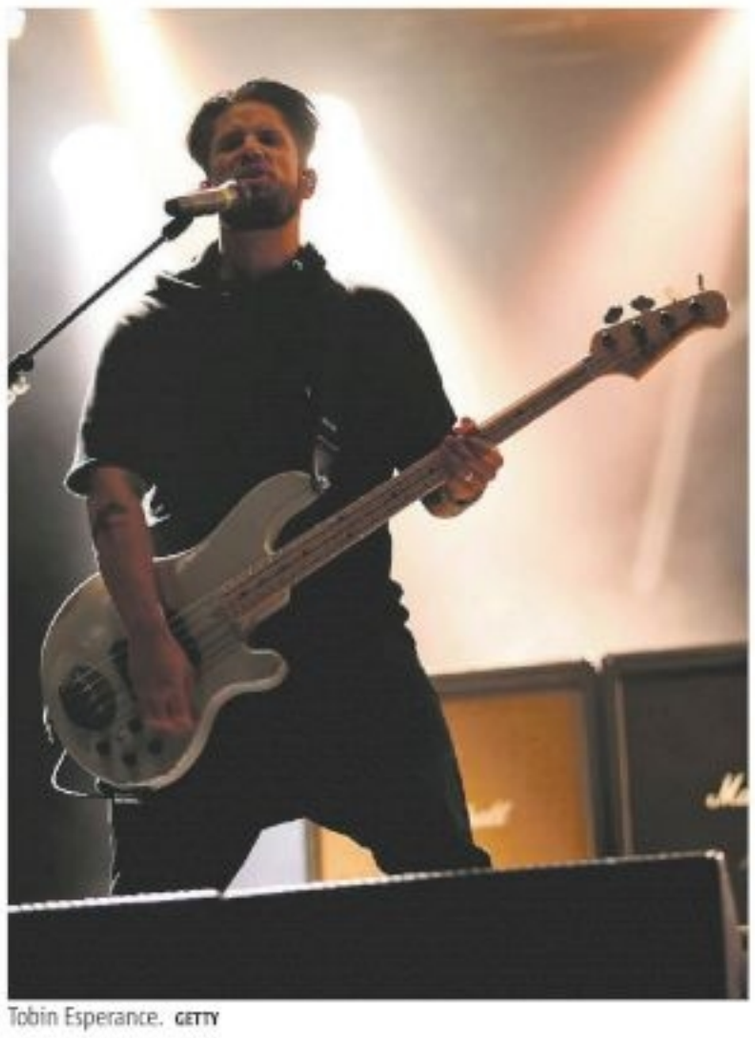

Tobin Esperance. GETTY

American rock legends Papa Roach have been wowing audiences with their hard-hitting, energetic songs and shows for over two decades — and they are showing no signs of slowing down. With a new album out and a national tour underway, the group feels better than ever and equally are way more involved with their live performances than ever before. Papa Roach's bassist, Tobin Esperance, sat down with Metro to give us the scoop on the band's latest studio album, "Who Do You Trust," what to expect at one of their concerts, and more on why the band wants every show to truly be a musical journey.

I wanted to chat about your 10th studio album, "Who Do You Trust." What went into making this album?
It kind of all started with a lot of leftover songs that didn't get finished from the record before, "Crooked Teeth." There were just a bunch of ideas that we didn't get to, and a lot of stuff that we didn't finish. It just seemed like a good idea for us to come off of touring from that record and just keep the creative flow going. So we finished those songs, wrote a couple more and decided not to wait to put out another record. A lot of bands space things out: The old-school way was to put a new record out every two-and-a-half to three years, but I think that's changed now. I think people's attention spans are definitely shorter and they'll forget about you if you don't keep releasing new music. So we just decided to release another record real quick and didn't overthink every little detail, really. We just wanted to pick up where we left off and just finish it.

The album definitely highlights the evolution of the band's sound. Why was it important to redefine the music with "Who Do You Trust"?
It's important for us to always have fun and make music that has a vibe and has an energy that's kind of just our own. I think people might hear the songs on the record and they may think it's way different from the stuff that we did 15, 20 years ago, especially with the production and sonic quality of it. But when you see us perform these songs live, I think it makes even more sense just because it fits the vibe and the energy from all the other songs that we have. We weren't making heavy music where it was dominating loud guitars all of the time. I think we got tired of that a little bit. We wanted to try a different approach, so we did. That's not to say that we're ditching guitar riffs at all, because we love guitar riffs and we've actually been talking about writing a lot of them lately and we want to bring that element back. It seems like, unfortunately, guitar has taken a backseat nowadays. We want to fight to bring it back.

Any tracks from the new album that you would say are your personal favorite, or that stand out with those guitar riffs?
We started playing this song called "Feel Like Home" live and that has become my new favorite, pretty much because it's just such a simple song and the beat doesn't change and the tempo is up the whole time. A lot of our songs don't do that, so when you have one [like that], it just feels good. I think it kind of makes us almost want to write more songs that just don't let up and have more tempo. When we play that song live, we get the crowd jumping, and they just don't stop. It's a different kind of song. It's not like an angry song, it's not heavy. It's just very reflective of a vibe that was very nostalgic for me.

How does it feel to be hitting the road with Asking Alexandria and Bad Wolves?
It's cool. We've done shows with those bands before, and we're all friendly. I think Asking Alexandria just dropped a new song called "Violence" and Bad Wolves is a new band pretty much, but I've known the singer for a long time when he was in other bands. But it's basically a bunch of homies on tour, so it's cool.

Looking back on your career, has anything changed over the years when you're getting ready to go on tour?
The process of how we get ready for a tour has definitely changed. We are way more involved and we've definitely added a lot more with our production and preparation for how we perform songs and how we want the lights to look and the content of the video screens. We're so involved with every little aspect of that, where before we didn't really have much production — we were a little more punk rock about just getting up onstage and playing and that was it. Now we want to peak in the show, but then we want to take you down and vibe you out and take you back up again. It's important for us to create these peaks and valleys, which we've learned how to do over the years. As far as being on tour, the actual tour lifestyle is totally different — much healthier.

What would you tell audiences to expect from a Papa Roach concert?
Really it's going to be a journey, I think we always run the game of emotion in a Papa Roach show. We'll make you laugh, we'll make you cry, we'll make you want to fight, we'll make you hopefully feel a little bit romantic — all of those things. Hopefully, we make you want to lose yourself in that moment and jump out of your own skin and forget everything else. Put your phone away and just forget about all of your troubles and just connect with the whole vibe. This is definitely the most well-thought-out show we've ever done. We're really excited about it.

Catch Papa Roach at the Met Philadelphia Aug. 7 at 7 p.m.

A view from the "SilentHike" tour last week.
ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED

How to slow down in Philly with music and mindfulness

What you missed when Murray Hidary's innovative outdoor music experience came to East Fairmount Park last week.

MADELINE PRESLAND
letters@metro.us

Pianist and composer Murray Hidary is on a mission to help people go on meditative musical journeys in cities across the country.

He found that standard outdoor concerts lacked the connections he wanted to form with his audiences. So he created his own performance style that fulfills a greater purpose. Hidary created MindTravel to combine meditative experiences with enjoying music in parks and gardens. Hidary instructs attendees on how to get lost in the music through walking meditation, and really slow down for a couple of hours.

"Nature is my biggest inspiration and I always wanted to perform outside," said Hidary. "I have played in a lot of outdoor concerts. The acoustics usually aren't great, so I decided to put the whole audience in headphones. Something happens when you start wearing them. It's a time for reflection and contemplation, but doing that in a group provides a sense of togetherness."

These headphones aren't your average Bluetooth headsets. The glowing headphones are highly customized for this experience, and connect to "a moving radio station" in Hidary's pocket. Hidary holds a device that transmits the music, as well as the audio from

his microphone, so he can guide you on both the hike and the meditation. Hidary uses one walking meditation method to help entire groups match walking and breathing paces. You inhale while lifting one foot up and exhale while setting it down, and repeat with the opposite foot. This sets a pace for thinking about every step you take. For the Philly crowd, this required some adapting, especially while ascending a famous set of stairs.

The slow procession looped around the Philadelphia Museum of Art with several stopping points, which gave the group the opportunity to both listen to the music and take in their surroundings. The group gazed at the Center City skyline from the top of the art museum steps and moved on to a tranquil view of Fairmount Water Works. As dusk approached, the group walked down to the riverbank. Though the busy traffic on I-76 might seem distracting, Hidary encouraged participants to embrace the bustle and city noise as part of the experience. This form of meditation is all about perspective and becoming more in tune with your own mind. You can only be interrupted by things like the jingle from an ice cream truck or the sight of rush-hour traffic if you allow it.

The "SilentHike" tour will continue visiting parks and trails in cities across the country through September. If you want to try your own version of the SilentHike by the Museum of Art, you can find Hidary's MindTravel albums on Spotify and YouTube.

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Right now, doctors at the **University of Pennsylvania** in Philadelphia are conducting a new research study for **chronic itch with prurigo nodularis (PN).** The study is for an investigational medication that may help reduce uncomfortable itching associated with PN.

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NFL betting: Patriots, Titans over/unders

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MATT BURKE

Matt Burke is a veteran sports journalist and the Founder and Editor in Chief of MetroBet.

The defending Super Bowl champion Patriots have the highest over/under win total at **MetroBet.us/Sugar** at 11.

That number seems about right as the Pats have gone Over 11 wins in eight of the last nine seasons.

The only outlier?

Last season, actually, when the Pats hit 11 wins right on the nose with an 11-5 record. They only found their groove in the playoffs, and now more than ever New England treats the regular season as something slightly more important than 16 exhibition games — a tune-up for the postseason. That's not to say that the Patriots will finish as a Wild Card at 9-7 or 10-6, though.

Bill Belichick has always highly valued getting one of the top two seeds in the AFC, and the only way to typically get there is to get to 12 or 13 wins.

The Pats barely squeaked by Kansas City on the road in the AFC Championship game, and here's thinking that Belichick will place a little more emphasis on the regular season than he did a year ago, given the importance of home-field advantage throughout the postseason.

With a roster that has slightly improved overall since last year — the additions of LB Jamie Collins, DE Michael Bennett, WR Demaryius Thomas and first-round stud WR N'Keal Harry should pay off immensely — 12 victories seems about right.

The play: $10 on Patriots Over 11 wins at MetroBet.us/Sugar

GETTY IMAGES

Titans

The Titans offer some of the best value available at **MetroBet.us/Sugar** as eight wins seems quite low for a team on the upswing, a team that has gone 9-7 in each of the past three seasons.

Head coach Mike Vrabel has brought toughness to a deep Titans roster, and Tennessee was still in the playoff mix at the end of last year despite a rugged schedule. Vrabel's Titans posted home wins over the Eagles and Patriots, and road wins over the Cowboys and Jaguars (early in the season, when Jacksonville still looked like a contender).

They also filled some major holes this offseason, bringing in Ryan Tannehill to back up the injury-prone Marcus Mariota, landing DE Cameron Wake and WR Adam Humphries in free agency, and nabbing guard Rodger Saffold in free agency as well.

The play: $10 on Titans Over 8 wins at MetroBet.us/Sugar

TWEET OF THE DAY

John Clark
@JClarkNBCS

Eagles get a shoutout on @chancetherapper new album in song "We go High."

DeSean Jackson thinks he's saying "I just want DeSean back like an Eagles fan."

Or is it, "I just want the shine back like an Eagles fan?"

Best Bets

Phillies at Diamondbacks

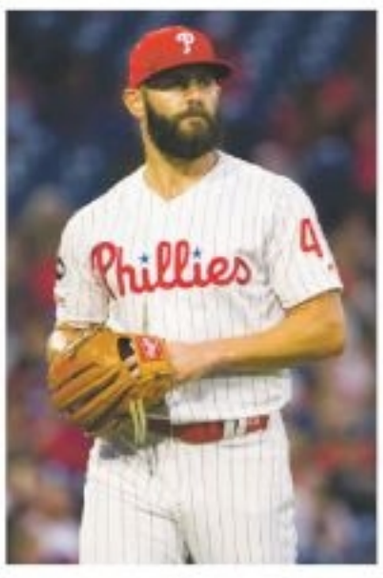
Mike Leake's debut start for the D-backs should be a winning one. He'll square off with Jake Arrieta (8-8, 4.44 ERA) and the Phillies Tuesday at Chase Field.

To bet on this game now go to **MetroBet.us/Sugar** and get up to $250 in free betting cash!

Leake (9-8, 4.27 ERA) is fresh off his best month of the year, as he went 2-0 with a 3.00 ERA and 1.167 WHIP in July for the Mariners. That included a one-hit shutout performance against the Angels on July 19. Two of the key cogs in the Phillies' lineup, Bryce Harper and J.T. Realmuto, have just three total hits in 28 prior at-bats against the Arizona State product.

Arrieta has gone 11 straight starts without advancing past the sixth inning for Philadelphia, pitching to a 5.98 ERA in that span. The Missouri native has terrible road splits in 2019, as his WHIP in 11 outings this year is an inflated 1.476. Opponents are batting .298 off Arrieta outside of Citizens Bank Park this season. Bettors should expect D-backs center fielder Ketel Marte and third baseman Jake Lamb to generate some runs in this one, as they're a combined 11-for-23 (.478) all-time against Arrieta.

The play: Diamondbacks moneyline



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EAGLES FOOTBALL HAS RETURNED! WELL, NOT REALLY

THE SPORTS PROFESSOR

GLEN MACNOW

@RealGlenMacnow

Hey, in case you missed the news, football's back, baby.

This Thursday, the Eagles host the Titans. We'll fight traffic down to the Linc or invite friends to watch on TV. We'll celebrate the end of the 204-day drought since we cheered the guys in green.

Sounds great — except, well, spoiler alert: It's the preseason.

It's going to be lousy football. After 45 minutes, that buffet they've put out to whet your appetite is likely to leave you with a bad case of agita.

In case you've forgotten, there are two priorities for NFL coaches in these faux games:

1) Nobody gets hurt, dammit! This means, mostly, that key players won't see that field at all.

Last summer, head coach Doug Pederson iced Darren Sproles, Jason Peters, Alshon Jeffery, Nelson Agholor and other starters through the entire four-game August tour. He's still demurring on whether quarterback Carson Wentz takes a snap this Thursday.

Eagles fans will see more of Clayton Thorson (left) and Cody Kessler (right) than Carson Wentz this preseason. GETTY IMAGES

Safe bet: Roster body Cody Kessler and late-round rookie Clayton Thorson (this year's Mike Kafka) will throw more passes this month than Wentz and Nate Sudfeld. Remember Joe Callahan last year?

2) Coaches must reveal nothing. The paranoia is that a future opponent may sniff out a play or a trend, so preseason strategies fall short of Pop Warner game plans. "Vanilla" is too exciting a term for the flavor you'll see Thursday night. Let's go with "gruel."

Need proof? Okay, name five exciting plays you've seen over your years of watching preseason football. Well, there was that McNabb-to-TO bomb in their first game 15 years ago. After that ...

Look, I don't want to spoil the fun. Maybe you'll find clues Thursday night to how the Eagles will use Miles Sanders in the passing game. Maybe one of the new edge rushers distinguishes himself.

But don't forget what a mirage these games can be. Two summers ago, Patrick Robinson seemed an inept defender. Then the actual season began and he was superb as the slot corner.

CONTINUED ON P. 20

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EAGLES FOOTBALL RETURNS (CONT.)

For every Corey Clement working his way from obscurity to the roster, there are dozens of pretenders like Paul Turner, Na Brown and Henry Josey. They fool us by resembling all-pros against other teams' third-stringers. Hey, I'll confess to hyperventilating over Tim Tebow a few summers back.

Still taking the preseason seriously? Just remind yourself: Sam Bradford went 10-for-10 against the Packers in 2015 and we envisioned Sammy Sleeves becoming grand marshal of our first Super Bowl parade. How'd that work out?

Eagles head coach Doug Pederson. GETTY IMAGES

The preseason is such an abysmal product that even NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell tried to scale it back. He received no support from owners, who cherish this money grab they can sell to TV and foist upon season-ticket buyers — at full price.

Coaches use it to sort out the last five guys on their roster. Mostly, these are the names you hear announced as healthy scratches 90 minutes before the opening kickoff.

Hey, we're all starving for some semblance of Eagles football (particularly in light of the Phillies' swoon), so we'll all watch this Thursday and the next three. It's not like we've got other plans.

But recognize it for what it is: A chance for lesser players to get the kinks out and better ones to conduct sideline interviews with Dave Spadaro in spotless uniforms. An audition for pluggers whose future rests in the CFL and a prayer that no one's season ends with a shredded knee.

Mostly, it's a bridge to get through August. Hey, once Thursday's slopfest is over, it's just 32 more days to real Eagles football.

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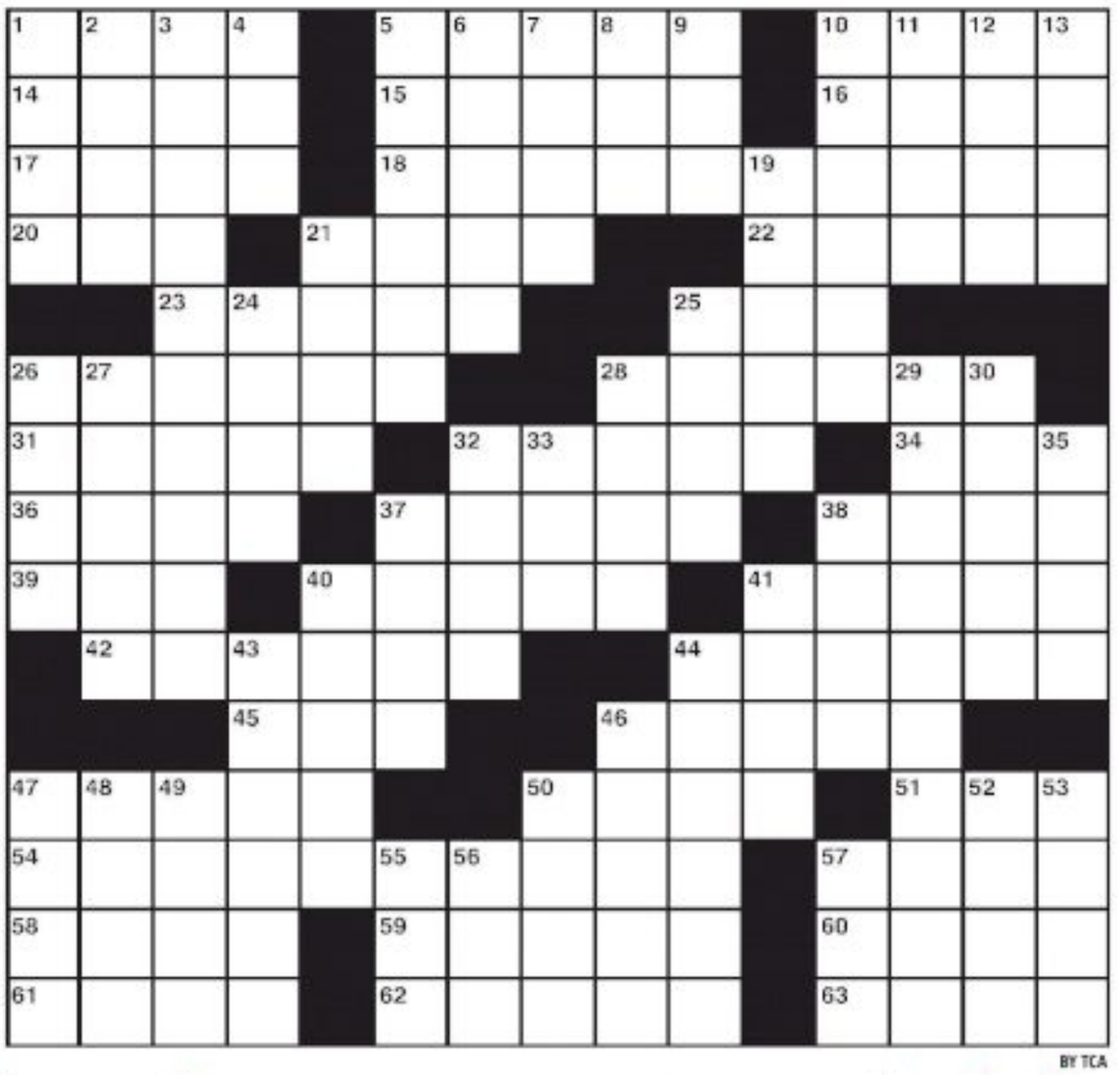
15 Courtroom event
16 Take on employees
17 As straight __ arrow
18 Thought back on
20 Affleck or Savage
21 Buzzers
22 Naps
23 In a bad mood
25 Felt hat
26 Hateful
28 Snoozes
31 Bus station
32 Golfer Sam __
34 Cleaning cloth
36 "Phooey!"
37 European nobleman
38 African nation
39 __-to; brawl
40 Noise
41 1 of the 12 Apostles
42 Thing worth saving
44 Like one with laryngitis
45 Get __ of; shed
46 "Sri" follower
47 Monk's superior
50 Partial amount
51 Big TV network
54 One who says "I do"
57 Part of a staircase
58 Freeway division
59 Gallows item
60 Frau's man
61 Breakfast order
62 Say
63 Jumpy

DOWN
1 Injure with a dagger
2 Sit for an artist
3 Set free
4 Lion's lair
5 Strain
6 Joyce Kilmer poem
7 Objectives
8 Edison's initials
9 Hardwood
10 Breathe during an asthma attack
11 Televises
12 Guitar part
13 Kennedy & Knight
19 Bloodline
21 Boxing match
24 __ for; cheer on
25 Apartment
26 Likelihood
27 Baseball's Jeter
28 Transmit
29 Drawn-out
30 Smart guys
32 Like lemons
33 Religious sister
35 VP Al __
37 Unlike Morehouse & Eton
38 Yellowish wood
40 Ill will
41 Dixie dish
43 Wears away
44 Carpenter's tool
46 On the __; free to roam
47 Suffix for comfort or chew
48 Boast
49 Cherry variety
50 Ashy residue
52 Floating ice mass
53 Vigorous
55 Lion's prey
56 Decay
57 The girl



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B	O	H	S	T	N	I	R	P	N
P	T	Y	R	C	R	S	P	H	I
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5	2			8		6		1
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S	H	I	P			P	E	A	S		P	R	O	V
O	I	L	E	D		R	E	N	T		L	A	N	E
D	E	L	T	A		O	R	D	I	N	A	N	C	E
A	S	A		M	O	P			F	I	N	G	E	R
		D	E	A	N	S			F	E	E			
R	A	V	A	G	E			R	E	C	T	O	R	
A	L	I	C	E		T	H	O	S	E		P	E	G
P	O	S	H		L	E	A	S	T		S	P	A	N
S	H	E		P	A	S	T	E		B	E	R	R	A
	A	D	D	I	C	T			S	A	N	E	S	T
			O	L	E			M	E	N	D	S		
S	O	C	C	E	R			E	A	T		S	H	H
A	V	O	I	D	A	B	L	E		A	D	I	E	U
C	E	L	L		T	A	U	T		M	O	V	E	R
K	N	E	E		E	G	G	S			S	E	L	L

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